

PREPARATION of the APPLICATION

Applications for our PhD programs are processed by GW's Columbian College of Arts & Sciences. To access the application portal, please [click here](#). To view a list of application requirements, please [click here](#) and scroll to your program of interest (the five IBS PhD programs – Cancer Biology, Genomics & Bioinformatics, Microbiology & Immunology, Neuroscience and Pharmacology & Physiology – share the same requirements).

You should submit a current resume/CV. You will also be asked to provide a personal statement (250-500 words) describing your academic and professional experiences to date, and to describe your future career plans.

In addition, there are 3 short response questions that you will answer:

- Research experiences shape an interest in the biomedical PhD and a career in science. Please describe your current or previous research experiences, including any role in designing, performing or reporting a study. What did you learn about yourself in completing this experience? (250-500 words)
- Please identify three [IBS faculty trainers](#) and describe your interest in their research programs. (~250 words)
- Doctoral study involves both self-motivation and resilience. Give an example of a time you faced a serious obstacle or failure, and how you handled it. (~250 words)

An optional prompt provides the opportunity to explain how your experiences and/or commitment to diversity and inclusion may, for example: influence your decision to pursue a graduate degree; help you bring a unique or underrepresented perspective to your field; contribute to the social, intellectual, or cultural diversity of GW's scholarly community; or demonstrate your efforts to build mutual respect and scholarly connections across barriers of heritage, culture, identity, and difference.

The IBS application requires three letters of recommendation. They are most useful if they are written by individuals familiar with your research experience, and address 1) your knowledge and curiosity, 2) your drive and motivation, 3) your technical and analytic skills, 4) your independence and team strengths. Please provide the [IBS Letter of Recommendation Instructions](#) to the individuals from whom you have requested recommendations. You must supply the names and email addresses in the recommendations section of the application in order for them to submit their letter.

For international students: Please be advised that we typically do not review or accept international applicants. We are able to consider only international applicants who have fellowships that can support their graduate education on a case by case basis. Please contact us in advance to discuss your eligibility.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

You will need to create an account in the portal [and then verify it]. Once you have verified your account, you may [log in](#) and Start A New Application. Most of the fields in the application are self-explanatory. However, here are a few items of note:

1. In the Program Information section, you will need to make the following selections:
 - a. Program Type: *Graduate*
 - b. School: *Columbian College of Arts & Science*
 - c. Field of Study: Apply to only one of the five IBS programs found under *Biomedical Sciences* [students who enroll have the opportunity to change their program at the end of the first year]
 - d. Degree: *PhD* [the IBS only offers the PhD degree]
 - e. Concentration: *Not Applicable*
 - f. Term: *Fall 2025* [the IBS offers admission for the Fall semester only]
2. In the Admissions Information section, make the following selections
 - a. Attendance Status: *Full-Time* [the IBS PhDs are full-time, year-round, in-person programs]
 - b. Campus: *Main Campus* [the IBS only accepts students on GW's main campus]
 - c. Joint Degree Program: *No* [the IBS does not offer joint degrees]
3. In the Financial Aid section, please select *Yes* for the "Do you want to be considered for a school-based fellowship, merit-based scholarship, or teaching assistantship if available for your program" option unless you have an independent fellowship to support your PhD.